

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 6 being independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Aoki (U.S. Patent No. 6,947,601 B2). Claims 3-5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoki in view of Hiroaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,786,846).

The Examiner states that Aoki discloses all of the recitations of Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 in FIGS. 2, 3, 17, 18, column 2, lines 53 and 54, and columns 16-18. Regarding Claims 3-5, 8 and 9, the Examiner concedes that Aoki does not disclose that if at least one of the user's face area detected by the tracker is outside of the prescribed allowable range, the controller controls the transmission/reception unit to prevent the image having no distortion of angle of view (Black screen) from being transmitted. The Examiner states that Hiroaki teaches this recitation in FIG. 14 and columns 16 and 17, and asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the display of Aoki with the alleged suggestions of Hiroaki.

Independent Claim 1 recites, in part, a communication terminal apparatus having a camera for transmitting a captured image to a communication terminal of a called party, and having a display for displaying an image received from the called party's communication terminal thereon such that it establishes a video communication with the called party, including a transmission/reception unit for performing data transmission/reception for the video communication; a tracker for detecting a user's face area from an image captured by the camera; an image extractor for extracting pixels of a predetermined range covering the user's face area detected by the tracker; a distortion corrector for correcting a distortion of angle of view in the pixels extracted by the image extractor when the camera captures an image; and a controller for determining whether a setup shot mode is set to a self-view mode for capturing the user, controlling the shot mode of the camera at the self-view mode when the setup shot mode is set to the self-view mode, and controlling the transmission/reception unit to transmit an image having

no distortion of angle of view through the distortion corrector to the called party's communication terminal. Independent Claim 6 includes similar recitations.

The Examiner states that Aoki describes all of the recitations of Claim 1, and relies on FIGS. 2, 3, 17, 18, column 2, lines 53 and 54, and columns 16-18, for satisfying these recitations. Aoki shows a signal processing system 500B in FIGS. 17 and 18. The signal processing system 500B includes a microphone 501, a camera circuit 502, a pre-processing circuit 503B, a video compressor and coder 504, a voice compressor and coder 505, a multiplexer 506, a transmission circuit 507, a reception circuit 508, a demultiplexer 509, a video decoding circuit 510, a voice decoding circuit 511, an image combining apparatus 512, a display circuit 513, a speaker 514, a GUI interface circuit 515, a CPU 516B, a face part position detector 5036, an image enlarging and reducing unit 5037, an image extractor 5038, a reference face image memory 5039, and a monitor and face image ratio memory 5040.

Aoki describes operation of the various elements shown in FIGS. 17 and 18 throughout the Aoki disclosure. However, none of the elements shown in FIGS. 17 and 18, or anywhere else in Aoki, suggest anything close to a distortion corrector for correcting a distortion of angle of view in the pixels extracted by the image extractor when the camera captures an image; and a controller for determining whether a setup shot mode is set to a self-view mode for capturing the user, controlling the shot mode of the camera at the self-view mode when the setup shot mode is set to the self-view mode, and controlling the transmission/reception unit to transmit an image having no distortion of angle of view through the distortion corrector to the called party's communication terminal. Aoki merely describes conventional compressing, coding, multiplexing, and size adjusting of a face image of image data, but nowhere suggests correcting a distortion of angle of view of the face image.

Furthermore, the present application describes, for example, on page 9, lines 8-16, how a distortion corrector 140 corrects a distortion of an angle of view in an image captured by a lens of a camera 110, e.g. a wide-angle lens. In col. 17, lines 4-40 and FIG. 18 of Aoki, the image enlarging and reducing unit 5037 merely enlarges or reduces the input image and **does not**

correct distortion of an angle of view in an image. Therefore, the distortion corrector recited in Claim 1 is structurally and functionally different from the image enlarging and reducing unit 5037 of Aoki.

Hiroaki describes a user interface of a video communication terminal unit and a method for notifying a terminal user's deviation from an appropriate shoot range. Hiroaki fails to supplement the deficiencies of Aoki because Hiroaki nowhere teaches or reasonably suggests a distortion corrector for correcting a distortion of angle of view in the pixels extracted by the image extractor when the camera captures an image; and a controller for determining whether a setup shot mode is set to a self-view mode for capturing the user, controlling the shot mode of the camera at the self-view mode when the setup shot mode is set to the self-view mode, and controlling the transmission/reception unit to transmit an image having no distortion of angle of view through the distortion corrector to the called party's communication terminal.

More particularly, Aoki, Hiroaki, or any combination thereof, fails to teach or reasonably suggest a communication terminal apparatus having a camera for transmitting a captured image to a communication terminal of a called party, and having a display for displaying an image received from the called party's communication terminal thereon such that it establishes a video communication with the called party, including a transmission/reception unit for performing data transmission/reception for the video communication; a tracker for detecting a user's face area from an image captured by the camera; an image extractor for extracting pixels of a predetermined range covering the user's face area detected by the tracker; a distortion corrector for correcting a distortion of angle of view in the pixels extracted by the image extractor when the camera captures an image; and a controller for determining whether a setup shot mode is set to a self-view mode for capturing the user, controlling the shot mode of the camera at the self-view mode when the setup shot mode is set to the self-view mode, and controlling the transmission/reception unit to transmit an image having no distortion of angle of view through the distortion corrector to the called party's communication terminal, as recited in independent Claim 1. Aoki, Hiroaki, or any combination thereof, also fails to teach or reasonably suggest similar recitations in independent Claim 6.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 6 are allowable over Aoki, Hiroaki, or any combination thereof.

While not conceding the patentability of the dependent claims, *per se*, Claims 2-5 and 7-9 are also allowable for at least the above reasons.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-9, are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written in a cursive style.

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